

# Animadversions

Upon some Passages

IN

A BOOK, Entituled,

THE

# True Nature

OF A

# Gospel-Church,

And Its

# GOVERNMENT.

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WRITTEN

(As it is said by the Publisher)

By John Owen, D. D.

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NOTES

Upon some subjects

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*Beware of False Prophets, which come to you in Sheeps Cloathing; but inwardly they are Ravening Wolves, Mat. 7. 15.*

**T**Hat the great Name of Dr. Owen, may not beget a Prejudice in the Minds of any well-meaning Readers, against what is here Written in Opposition to His *Schismatical* Con-  
 ceits: I shall in the First place Declare,

A 2

That

That I shall not *Contract* Him any farther, than where I am Confident to do; otherwise, would be to Contemn the Joynt-Authority of these blessed Men; which next to the *Holy Apostles*, deserve the Character of the most Glorious *Lights of the World*; St. Ignatius, St. Irenæus, St. Athanasius, St. Hilary, St. Basil, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. Gregory Nyssen, St. Ambrose, St. Chrysostome, St. Augustin.

P. 2. “ Our First Enquiry, says the Dr.  
 “ Being concerning *what sort of Persons*, our  
 “ Lord Jesus Christ requireth, and admitteth to be the *Visible Subjects* of his Kingdom, We are to be Regulated in our  
 “ Determination, by Respect unto his Honor, Glory, and the Holiness of his Rule.  
 “ To reckon such Persons to be Subjects of Christ, Members of his Body, such as  
 “ he Requires, and Owns, who would not  
 “ be Tolerated, at least not approv’d in a  
 “ well Governed Kingdom, or Commonwealth of the World, is highly Dishonourable unto him. But it is so come  
 “ to pass, That let Men be never so notoriously, and flagitiously wicked, until they become Pests of the Earth; yet  
 “ are

"are they Esteem'd, to belong to the  
" Church of Christ.

To this I answer, That our **Saviour**, Requires all Men to be of his *Church*, to submit themselves to his Discipline, and to Profess to all the World, that they do so, by being *Baptiz'd in the the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*. Those that are Baptized, He Requires by the Assistance of His Holy Spirit which He continually *Offers* to them, to Act according to their Profession, to *Love the Lord their God, with all their Heart, and with all their Soul, and with all their Strength, and with all their Mind, and their Neighbour, as themselves*. He has not declared, That it is His Will, that *Baptism* should be Deny'd to any Person, or that any one being Baptiz'd, should be Depriv'd of the Priviledge of having External Communion with all True Christians, but for such Causes, which are Express'd in the *Canons, and Constitutions of the Church of England*. Those, who remaining in *External Communion* with the Church, have not the *Habit, or Fixed Principle* of Divine Love, in their Hearts. Our Blessed **Lord**, doth not Own in such a manner,

as to receive them into a *State of Salvation*; but He doth Own them, or Take them for His People upon this Account, That He Graciously Confers on them, in an abundant Measure, the Means of Knowing what they *must do to be Saved*. He does not Approve, or Take any Complacency in that Temper of Mind, or Spirit, which they are Actually in; but he is always *Well-pleased* with the *Capacity*, He has Graciously Endu'd them with all, of attaining to a Divine Temper; that is to say, Of being *Sanctified*, or having their *wills* United to the *Will of God* in all things. And He approves the *Ministers of the Gospel*, in the Administration of the Means of Grace, or Sanctification unto them, and in Praying for them.

P. 15. “ It must be remembred, That  
 “ *Communion with particular Churches*, is to  
 “ be Regulated absolutely by *Edification*.  
 “ No Man is, or can be Oblig'd to abide in,  
 “ or confine himself unto the Communion  
 “ of any particular Church any longer, than  
 “ it is for his *Edification*.

This is True, But from hence it is most  
 Evident,



Evident, That those Men are Guilty of most *Abominable* Iniquity, who Endeavour to Seduce any People from the Communion of the *Church of England*, in which the *Fundamental Articles* of the Christian Religion are so clearly, and fully Exprest, and those most Important Expressions so frequently Repeated; that Persons of the *lowest Intellectuals*, who do not Rebel against the *Light*, in frequenting our *Religious Assemblies*; may more easily attain to the Knowledge of all things that are Necessary to their Salvation, than by Hearing, or Reading the best Sermons, that have been, or shall be Preach't by any of the *Non-conformists*, to the End of the World; which Assertion, is as Evident, as it is, That any *Illiterate* Persons, may more easily Meditate on Truths plainly Exprest, and frequently Suggested to their Remembrance, than Collect the same Truths out of divers large Discourses, if they were therein *Imply'd*. So that, It can hardly be imagined, how any Man can be in any thing, more serviceable to the *Destroyer of Souls*, than by Teaching People to *Despise* our *Catechism* and *Common-Prayer*. It is now Manifest, and shall be so, to all Posterity;

that the Multitude of these *Despisers*, have Encourag'd the Profest Enemies of the **Godhead** of our Blessed Saviour, to Publish their **Blasphemies**.

*Arise O GOD, Plead thine own Cause : Remember how the Foolish Man, Blasphemeth thee daily.*

P. 20. " Few there are, who think that  
" any Act, or Duty of their own, is Re-  
" quir'd to Enstate them in Church Order,  
" and Relation.

Was there ever such a notorious False-  
hood, Publish't by any Learned Man, Pro-  
fessing himself to be a Christian! *what*  
*shall be done unto thee, thou False Tongue !*  
Every Child that is Educated in the  
*Church of England*, can tell him this, That  
it is Requir'd of them that come to the  
Lords Supper. " To Examine themselves  
" whether they Repent them truly of  
" their former sins, stedfastly purposing to  
" lead a new Life ; have a Lively  
" Faith in Gods Mercy through **Christ**,  
" with a thankful Remembrance of his  
" Death, and be in Charity with all  
" Men.



P. 28. " All this Authority, in, and  
" over the Church, is vested in **Christ**.

*Answer.* True; But he Communicates  
His Authority, to be Exercis'd in Depen-  
dence upon Himself to those, to whom  
by the *Holy Apostle*, He requires our O-  
bedience, *Heb. 13. 17. Obey them that*  
*have the Rule over you.*

P. 40. " Every individual Person hath  
" the Liberty of his own Judgment, as  
" unto his own Consent, or Dissent, in  
" what he is himself concern'd.

To this I answer, That every Person  
who in Matters *Spiritual* or *Ecclesiastical*,  
Acts according to his own Private Judg-  
ment, *viz.* without a due Regard to the  
Judgment of *them that have the Rule over*  
*him*, Acts contrary to the *Mind of Christ*.

P. 88. " If the World doth not dwell  
" with Power *in us*, it will not pass with  
" Power *from us*.

This is most horrible *False Doctrine*, and  
of mischievous Consequence to the Souls  
of

of Men, making them to Conceit, That the *Efficacy of Sanctifying Truth*, Depends upon the *Sanctity* of the Preacher, thus Assisting the *Devil* in his Temptations in the Minds of the Hearers, wholly to Neglect, or to Lessen their Attention to those *Sanctifying Truths*, that come to their Notice from the *Tongues*, or *Pens* of such Persons, whom (truly, or falsely) they suppose to be *Irregular* in their Lives; whereas we are Bound by our *Christianity*, to Love whatsoever is of GOD, in whomsoever we find it, from whomsoever we receive the *Notice* of it. This I conceive to be so plain a Truth, That there is no need I should Insist any longer on it, but only to beseech the Christian Reader, by the Mercies of God, by all the Love he bears to the Truth of the Gospel; That he would *Beware* of the *Sophistry* of all sorts of *Schismaticks*; And that he would be more Ardent in his Devotions, than ever yet he has been; Praying thus with all True Christians:

“ Give Grace, O Heavenly Father, to  
 “ all Bishops, and Curates, That they  
 “ may both by their Life and Doctrine,  
 “ set forth thy True and Lively Word,  
 “ and

"and Rightly, and Duely Administer  
 "thy Holy Sacraments.

We grant that our Communion with the *Church - Catholick*, Chiefly, and Principally, Consists in this: "That we  
 "have all one, and the same God, and  
 "Father, (as Dr. Owen speaks, pag. 242.)  
 "one Lord Jesus Christ, one Faith, and  
 "one Doctrine of Faith, one Hope of  
 "our Calling, or the promis'd Inheritance,  
 "one Regeneration, one Baptism, one  
 "Bread and Wine; United unto God,  
 "and Christ in one Spirit, through the  
 "Bond of Faith, and Love. But then,  
 we Declare to all the World, That those  
 Persons who own an Aversion from  
 the Communion of the *Church of England*,  
 are Guilty of a most Heinous Violation  
 of the Bond of Christian Love; and Se-  
 parate themselves from the *Church-  
 Catholick*, in Separating from the *Pub-  
 lick-worship* of so Sound a Member  
 of It; there being nothing Requir'd, as  
 a Condition of this *Communion*, but to  
 make *Publick Confession of that Faith, which  
 was once Delivered to the Saints*, (which  
 none but the most Execrable sort of He-  
 reticks

reticks can any way Disgust): And to Use those Words in Publick Prayer, which are as certainly *Expressive* of the *Power* and *Virtue* of all Holy Desires, as it is certain that our Saviour is the *Only wise GOD*; and to Receive the Blessed *Eucharist* in both Kinds, according to Christ's Institution, in such a Posture of the Body, as best suits with the Humility of a Devout Soul, Adoring the Majesty of Her Crucified Redeemer.

P. 285. "Unto the Communion of all  
 "particular Churches in the World, there  
 "is nothing requir'd, but a Belief of the  
 "Scripture to be the Word of GOD,  
 "with a professed Assent unto all Divine  
 "Relations therein contain'd.

To this I Answer, That since there sprung up a sort of Creatures, who pretend to Prove by Scripture, That our Blessed Saviour, is not the True, and Eternal GOD; it became Necessary for the Conservation of the *Purity* of Christian Communion, That all who Profess Christianity, should make *Solemn Confession* of their Faith in such Terms, as  
 Mani-

Manifest their Belief of this Fundamental Truth, contain'd in the Holy Scriptures, That *Jesus Christ*, is the True and Eternal GOD. This Assertion, Dr. Owen does in Effect, Consent unto in these Words. "Altho' any Society of Men, "should Profess the Scripture to be the "Vord of GOD, and avow an Assent "to the Revelations made therein; yet "by the Conceptions of their Minds, and "mis-understanding of the Sense of the "Holy Spirit therein, they may embrace, "and adhere unto such *Errors*, as may "Cut them off from all Communion with "the Catholick-Church in Faith.

Very well: But does it not follow from what he has here said, That a Profession of Belief, that the Scripture is the Word of GOD, &c. is not sufficient to Enstate us in External Communion with the *Church-Catholick*, since some of the most horrid Enemies of the *Church*, make the same Profession? My Charity prompts me to Believe, That if this Man had Lived to see *Socinianism* shew its Head amongst us, as it does in these Days, it would have Frighted him into a better  
Opi-

Opinion of the *Church of England*.

Here I shall most Earnestly beseech the Christian Reader, seriously to Consider, and with all his Heart, and with all his Strength, to Abhor, and Detest the *Phantastical Contempt* of the Order of the Church of England, for the Use of the *Lords-Prayer*, since 'tis so Notorious, That it has been the Inducement to so many *Blasphemies*. The Author of a Book, Entituled, *Essays towards a Union between Divinity, and Morality*, pag. 73. Despises the Order of our Church, for the frequent Use of this most Perfect Form of Prayer; and in the 84, and 85. pages, he openly *Blasphemes* GOD the Son, and GOD the Holy Ghost. I will not here Recite the Words: But I shall most Earnestly Beseech all True Christians, to use their utmost Endeavours, to procure such a *Mark of Infamy*, to be fixt upon this most Execrable Book, which the *University of Oxford* has lately fixt upon the like *Essay of Satanical Impudence*.

I cannot but fore-see the manifold *Ca-  
villations* and *Wranglings*, that will be  
raised



raised against this Paper: But, Blessed  
be GOD, *I fear not the Reproach of Men,*  
*nor am afraid of their Revilings:* Daily,  
and Hourly, pondring in my Heart, the  
weighty Sense of those Sacred Words,  
*Rev. 22. 20.* "He which Testifieth these  
"Things, saith, Surely I come quickly,  
"Amen. Even so, Come Lord Jesus.



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FINIS.